

NOTES FOR QUESTIONS AND ISSUES SHEET: INPUT PROGRAM #3: "HISTORY'S WEB OF VIOLENCE"

1. Why teach history?
2. Who is to control how history is taught?
3. Can there be one objective, scientific history on which all races, religions, nationalities and classes can agree?
4. Is it possible to write history apart from some basic viewpoint and assumptions about man?
5. *(2-1 1802)* ^{To what extent} ~~In what ways~~ does the teaching of history in western culture serve to justify ~~the perpetuation of~~ violence and racism in the present day?
6. Is violence justifiable in the West because it is found in other civilizations?
7. Does the existence of violence in numerous civilizations and cultures mean that man is naturally violent and justified in being violent today?
8. In terms of man's total activity, does history record proportionately man's cooperative activities as opposed to war and violence, or is there a selective emphasis of cultures, tendencies and events which involve violence and an omission or suppression of those which negate violence and support cooperation?
9. Why is it necessary for an oppressed group, such as black people in the United States, to have to rewrite and teach history to stress its struggle for liberation from oppression and the establishment of a more human society?
10. If basic human and religious values call for a breakthrough from violence to a cooperative society, should not history be presented in such a way as to:
 - a) make conscious the prevalent ^{abolitionary} teaching of history as a device to justify and condition people for the acceptance and practice of violence today, and
 - b) stress the historical drama of man's struggle to break away from and to transcend violence to achieve cooperative social arrangements expressing and supporting the further development of man's higher potential?

